7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the mobile telephone adds a prefix code (50) to the user generated call destination information.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the prefix code includes a charging information field (51) for identifying a control entity (7) to be billed by one or more service providers corresponding to the selected network connection route.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 including the step of the mobile telephone periodically scanning (62) received transmissions to identify available communications channels (80,81,82,83) and completing (63) a registration procedure for all available channels in order to facilitate subsequent communication by selection therefrom.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10 including the step of electing (65) from the available channels an update receiving channel (80) for receipt of updating information broadcasts.

13. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the look-up table (1000) is stored in a portable storage medium (505) removably installed in the mobile telephone.

15. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the portable storage medium is a SIM (subscriber identity module) card (505) which also stores subscriber specific data for identification and authentication purposes.

16. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the look-up table is populated with an initial set of data before installation of the storage medium in the mobile telephone.

17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 including the step of periodically updating the data stored in the look-up table by receiving data blocks each containing a respective portion of updated data and, for each received data block, overwriting a corresponding portion of the existing data with updated data from the received block.

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18. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the look-up table (900) comprises:

a routing table (1101) containing the preferred route codes;

a carrier selection table (1102) containing, for each preferred route code, a list in order of priority of carrier selections to be used, subject to availability; and

a carrier access table (1103) containing, for each carrier selection, a channel selection identifying a communications channel provided by a service provider of the mobile telephone system and a prefix code to be added to the dialled number identifying a further network for routing the call.

23. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the look-up table comprises default route data and wherein if accessing the look-up table with the call destination information fails to locate corresponding data defining a preferred route code, the preferred route code is derived from the default route data.

24. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein updating information for updating the look-up table is communicated to the mobile telephone via a selected one of the available communications channels.

26. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 24 wherein the updating information is transmitted as a multipoint broadcast to a plurality of mobile telephones.

27. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the updating information is transmitted to the mobile telephone as a web page.

29. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the mobile telephone processes the web page to extract updating information; stores the extracted updating information in a buffer memory; and updates the look-up table with updating information read from the buffer memory.

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59. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 48 wherein the look-up table (900) comprises:

a routing table (1101) containing the preferred route codes;

a carrier selection table (1102) containing, for each preferred route code, a list in order of priority of carrier selections to be used, subject to availability; and

a carrier access table (1103) containing, for each carrier selection, a channel selection identifying a communications channel provided by a service provider of the mobile telephone system and a prefix code to be added to the dialled number identifying a further network for routing the call.

64. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 1 wherein the look-up table comprises default route data (1105) and wherein the accessing means is operable, if accessing the look-up table with the call destination information fails to locate corresponding data defining a preferred route code, to derive preferred route code from the default route data.

65. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 48 comprising means (901) for extracting updating information for updating the look-up table from signals communicated to the mobile telephone via a selected one of the available communications channels.

69. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 67 wherein the extracting means comprises a processor operable to process the web page to extract updating information; store the extracted updating information in a buffer memory (902); and update the look-up table with updating information read from the buffer memory.

70. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 48 comprising connecting means (1302) operable to detachably connect the mobile telephone to a docking station (1300,1500) and an interface (1406) for receiving the updating information transmitted in use to the mobile telephone via the docking station.

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72. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 48 wherein the preferred route code determines a route via a packet switched network (1800) and comprises network address information defining in use at least one node (1801) of the network which is to be included in the selected route.

74. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 72 comprising means for transmitting the outgoing telephone call as a packetised signal using a protocol in which such signals include a start address indicator interpreted in use by the network as being representative of a network address from which the call originates and wherein the transmitting means is operable to transmit the outgoing telephone call including start address information (1902) defined by the preferred route code.

75. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 48 and operable to output communications signals representative of a type of data selected from a set of alternative types of data.

77. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 75 wherein the look-table stores respective preferred route codes for each of the types of data.

85. (Amended) A computer program comprising processor implementable instructions for carrying out a method of operating a mobile telephone as claimed in claim 1.

86. (Amended) A storage medium storing processor implementable instructions for carrying out a method of operating a mobile telephone as claimed in claim 1.

87. (Amended) A communications signal comprising processor implementable instructions for carrying out a method of operating a mobile telephone as claimed in claim 1.

88. (Amended) A communications signal comprising route selecting information contained in an outgoing telephone call signal in accordance with a method as claimed in claim 1.

30. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the updating information is communicated to the mobile telephone by detachably connecting the mobile telephone to a docking station (1300,1500) and transmitting the updating information to the mobile telephone via the docking station.

34. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the broadcasting network is an optical cable network (1301).

35. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the broadcasting network is a satellite television network.

39. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the mobile telephone comprises an internal battery (1400) which is recharged by detachably connecting the mobile telephone to the docking station.

40. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the preferred route code determines a route via a packet switched network (1800) and comprises network address information defining at least one node (1801) of the network which is to be included in the selected route.

42. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 40 wherein the outgoing telephone call is transmitted as a packetised signal using a protocol in which such signals include a start address indicator interpreted by the network as being representative of a network address from which the call originates and comprising the further step of transmitting the outgoing telephone call including start address information (1902) defined by the preferred route code.

44. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the telephone call is originated to communicate data comprising a type of data selected from a set of alternative types of data.

46. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 43 wherein the look-up table stores respective preferred route codes for each of the types of data.

47. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cellular telephone system comprises part of a packet switching network in which the mobile telephone constitutes a node of the network and wherein the call destination constitutes a further node of the network.

51. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 49 wherein the prefix code includes a charging information field (51) for identifying a control entity (7) to be billed by one or more service providers corresponding to the selected network connection route.

52. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 48 comprising means (300) for periodically scanning received transmissions to identify available communications channels (80,81,82,83) and completing a registration procedure for all available channels in order to facilitate subsequent communication by selection therefrom.

55. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 48 wherein the look-up table (1000) is stored in a portable storage medium (505) removably installed in the mobile telephone.

57. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 55 wherein the portable storage medium is a SIM (subscriber identity module) card (505) which also stores subscriber specific data for identification and authentication purposes.

58. (Amended) A mobile telephone as claimed in claim 48 comprising updating means (901,136) for periodically updating the data stored in the look-up table by receiving data blocks each containing a respective portion of updated data and, for each received data block, overwriting a corresponding portion of the existing data with updated data from the received block.